

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MOGADI 01090 170728Z

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 SSO-00 /005 W

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O 170645Z MAY 78 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6321

S E C R E T MOGADISCIO 1090

STADIS

LIMDIS

REF: STATE 124815

1. WHOA* HOLD EVERYTHING* MY BEST ESTIMATE OF THE RESULTS OF ANY INSTRUCTION WRITTEN ALONG THE LINES OF REFTEL IS THAT WE WOULD ERODE OUR POSITION HERE AND UNDO ALL OF THE GOOD WORK ACCOMPLISHED BY THE SPECIAL EMISSARY AND OUR OWN EFFORTS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. SIAD IS BOUND TO INTERPRET ANY CHANGE IN THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SURVEY TEAM AS A UNILATERAL MODIFICATION OF OUR AGREEMENT. I DO NOT BELIEVE HE WILL BE SORELY TROUBLED BY A DEFERRAL OF THE IMPACT PACKAGE, IN WHICH I BELIEVE HIS INTEREST HAS ALWAYS BEEN LIMITED ANYWAY. I SINCERELY BELIEVE SILENCE ON OUR PART AT THIS TIME IS PREFERABLE TO AN APPROACH WHICH HE WILL REGARD AS EQUIVOCAL AT BEST AND WHICH MAY JEOPARDIZE WHAT CREDIBILITY WE HAVE WITH THE SOMALI LEADER.

2. INSTEAD OF REVERSING OUR POSITION I URGE THAT THE USG USE THE NEXT TWO WEEKS TO EXAMINE THE EVIDENCE OF GSDR SUPPORT FOR THE WSLF. IF WE DETERMINE IT IS CONCLUSIVE AND THAT WE MUST CONFRONT SIAD WITH IT, LET IT BE DONE THEN. IN THE INTERIM MY ABSENCE FROM NAIROBI, THE DEPARTMENT'S PREOCCUPATION WITH AIRCRAFT SALES TO THE MIDDLE EAST, AND THE ZAIRE CRISIS ALL OFFER PLAUSIBLE

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EXPLANATIONS FOR USG INACTIVITY WHICH THE CHARGE CAN DRAW UPON IF NECESSARY. HE CAN ALSO REFER TO THE LAST REPRESENTATION I MADE ON GSDR SUPPORT FOR THE WSLF.

3. I AM FULLY COGNIZANT OF THE LEVEL AT WHICH THIS PROBLEM WAS CONSIDERED, AND MAKE THE ABOVE OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ONLY AFTER CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT.

I REMAIN CONVINCED, HOWEVER, BOTH INTELLECTUALLY AND
VISCERALLY, THAT THE TIMING OF THE PROPOSED APPROACH IS
POOR AND THAT THE DAMAGE WE WILL DO OUR POSITION HERE
WILL BE CONSIDERABLE.
LOUGHRAN

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NNN

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